The Central Government has taken several initiatives to bring about changes in the entertainment sector in the interest of the overall development of this sector as under—

* Institutional and bank financing are now accessible to the entertainment industry.

* ' 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permissible in the film sector.

* Government has led participation in global markets with a view to enhancing visibility of film industry.

* Film weeks and festivals are held on reciprocal basis with various countries.

* Audiovisual co-production agreements with other countries are being explored to expand avenues of finances and markets for the Indian film industry.

* The Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, a sub-committee of the State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON), set up to suggest a policy framework for the film industry has recommended reduction of entertainment tax; steps to counter piracy in the film sector, measures to facilitate foreign film shooting in India etc.

* The National Film Development Corporation, a public sector unit under this Ministry provides limited funding for films and oversees the integrated growth of the film industry in tune with objectives of the national economic policy.

New channels of DD

2708. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan would add 15 new channels to the existing bouquet of 33 by June, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether it is also a fact that the private operators have to give 10 per cent of their revenue to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government has permitted Prasar Bharati to increase the number of channels on DD-Direct to fifty in its bouquet. Prasar Bharati is in the process of making necessary arrangements in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Payment for cricket footage

2709. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several electronic channels have not paid up for cricket footage to Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that notices have been issued to private channels to stop unauthorised usage of cricket footage.

It has further informed that under the Terms and Conditions for use of match footage of the India-Pakistan Cricket series, in the case of any channel utilising the match footage in excess of 30 seconds in news bulletins, Doordarshan will raise bills on the concerned private TV channels after the conclusion of the said series.

Popularity of DD/AIR

2710. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: